



David's Journey

Teacher: *Listen for the music. You hear it? I hear the music! Ready?*

Man Singing: *"Stand on your toes and stand up high."*

Speech Pathologist: Listening for a child with hearing loss is something they really have to work at. You have to really teach them how to listen. How to identify various different sounds. How to discriminate between different sounds and then how to match those sounds to the appropriate objects, to the appropriate words.

David: *That caterpillar is big?*

Speech Pathologist: We show them that sound is exciting

Class: *So big!*

Speech Pathologist: My name is Kira Shuckman and I'm a speech pathologist at Strivright.

His mother happens to be a fantastic woman and she's very much involved in the therapy process.

Mother: *Listen, who's this?*

David: *Bumblebee!*

Speech Pathologist: *Good listening!*

I'm directing her how to ask questions, how to answer questions, appropriate language to use. *What is that?* How to follow his lead.

Cock-a-doodle-doo! On a red circle! Ready for more?

Father: David was born with microtia atresia. He does only have one ear and there are challenges with that. My son is not as coordinated as other children. You put him next to another three year old at a park, you know, they're going down slides, they're swinging. My son can't do that.

Therapist: *One more time. One—two—*

Father: A child like my son, he needs additional services, right? You know when your balance is impaired, you need occupational therapists, you need physical therapists. We find all of that in David's school.

Mother: *You're going to cut on the line.*

In the lapse of two months, he flourished. My son has started to cut between the lines. For him it was very, very difficult, impossible for him to do that a couple months ago. This is a beautiful example, the work. Very simple, but very...um... It means a lot to us. That's what it is. We have to choose wisely right now. We have to do the best we can right now because he's developing, he's three years old. He's absorbing everything he can.

Say, "bye bye school, we love you!"

Ladybugs!

We like to come to this park. He can experience the calm of the nature, the animals.

I see some horses.

David: *Hi pony!*

Mother: *See the baby goat? See how nice!*

David: *B is for baby*

Mother: *B is for baby! Good job!*

Did you hear it?

David: *Cock-a-doodle-doo!*

Mother: I don't want people to limit him for his disability.

Where are the pigs? Oh, look. You hear that?

What does the pig say?

David: *Oink oink!*

What is that, David?

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David: Cow.

Mother: I also want to teach him that nothing is impossible. You can fail but you have to try, try, and try.

[Laughter]

That's what we're doing as his parents, we try to do the best everyday.

Look at the flowers.

Which one do you want? You want the baby? Do you really want to play with the baby?

[Child speaks]

Yeah! What else the baby need? Soap. And then we're going to pick books to read with daddy, while mommy cooks.

Father: Seeing the progress that David has made, we're tremendously optimistic. If you're willing to work hard, and if your children are willing to work hard, you'll be OK.

Daddy loves apples.

You should be able to live a very good and happy life.

He's a fat caterpillar

David: *I love you daddy.*

I love you too, sweet boy.

Mother: *It's time to say goodnight.*